

Roscoe Goose House Designation Report



**Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks
and
Preservation Districts Commission**

May 22, 2012

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Location

The Roscoe Goose House is located just north of Central Avenue at 1302 South Third Street. It is situated across Third Street from the University of Louisville's baseball field and is approximately 270 yards east of Churchill Downs racetrack. The property is comprised of one residential building on a 60 x 100 foot lot encompassing .26 acres of land.

Description

The Roscoe Goose House is a two-and-a-half story, three bay, hipped-roof, brick residence that was built c1890. The most prominent features of the east facing principal façade are the central wall dormer, the bracketed cornice, the round-arched first floor window, and the one-story porch that covers the façade and a portion of the south elevation. The later porch was added prior to 1928. An original, two-story, gable-roof ell projects from the rear of the main block and appended to it is a single-story, shed roof, frame portion which has been covered with artificial siding. This element may be original or more likely was expanded and replaced at an early point in time. A two-story projecting bay highlights the south elevation of the main block. All first-story windows with the exception of the round-arched façade window are two-over-one and the second-story windows are one-over-one. The façade windows and those of the bay are flat arched while those of the rear ell are segmental arched. The bold lintels of the second-story façade windows feature incised decoration. The third floor, façade wall dormer is punctuated by a double window topped by a round arch. All first floor windows and doors have applied, metal security grills.

History

By the early 1890s, Louisville's residential development had begun to spread southward beyond the Louisville Jockey Club grounds south of the House of Refuge. The completion of the Grand Boulevard, later Southern Parkway, to Iroquois Park in 1893 would greatly accelerate this development. In 1892, the house at 3012 South Third Street was the only residential structure in the block bounded by O Street (Heywood Avenue) on the North, Fourth Street on the east, P Street (Central Avenue) on the south and Third Street on the east. The southern half of the block was occupied by the greenhouses of F. Morat's Sons and Company Florists.

Within a dozen years, this same block would experienced significant development activity and would largely achieve today's appearance. Morat's Florist operation would be replaced by a corner drugstore, saloon, and residential structures along Fourth Street. Lots north and west of 3012 South Third Street were sold off for residential and corner commercial use and immediately to the south, the South Louisville Presbyterian Church was erected.

In 1913, the house at 3012 South Third Street was purchased by Roscoe T. Goose. Goose (b. January 21, 1891, d. June 11, 1971) was a Thoroughbred jockey, trainer, and owner and one of the inaugural inductees (1963) in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. *The Golden Goose* would reside at this address, yards from Churchill Downs, until his death in 1971.

Significance

As commemorated by the Kentucky Highway Historical Marker in the city's town square, legendary jockey Roscoe Tarleton Goose was born on a farm outside Jeffersontown in 1891.

Goose's early career would be spent primarily at two historic racetracks in Louisville's South End – Douglas Park and Churchill Downs. Goose and his brother Carl, a jockey who rode under a variation of the family's German surname Ganz and who had won the 1913 Kentucky Oaks, bought the house at 3012 South Third Street for their mother. She had formerly lived on nearby Grand Boulevard in a much smaller home.

Roscoe Goose won many races but the most important came in 1913 when he rode 91-1 long shot Donerail to victory in the 1913 Kentucky Derby. The win stunned race fans paying \$184.90 for a \$2.00 wager. Nearly a century later, Goose's win remains the highest-priced upset in Derby history. In 1913 Goose would also post wins in the Clark Handicap and the Debutante Stakes. Other major racing wins included the Bashford Manor Stakes, the Cherokee Handicap and the Louisville Cup, all in 1915, and the Cherokee Handicap and Kentucky Oaks in 1916. Carl Ganz died in a racing accident in 1915. Roscoe and Carl are the only brothers ever to win the Kentucky Oaks.

Goose's career as a jockey ended in 1918 but he continued in the Thoroughbred industry as a trainer and owner. He was the leading trainer at Chicago's Arlington Park in 1928 and in 1931 he trained at Henderson Kentucky's Ellis Park. In 1940, Goose was back at Arlington Park where he trained the winner of the Arlington-Washington Lassie Stakes. He served as a mentor for the 1937 Triple Crown winning jockey Charley Kurtsinger and other riders, who were often invited to stay on the third floor of 3012 South Third Street after his mother died.

Later in his career, Roscoe Goose served a three year term as president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Breeders Association. In 1974, veteran sportswriter Earl Ruby told Goose's life story in a book titled *The Golden Goose: Story of the Jockey Who Won the Most Stunning Kentucky Derby and Then Became a Millionaire*. The foreword was written U.S. Racing Hall of Fame member Eddie Arcaro.

Roscoe Goose died in Louisville in 1971 at age eighty. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

Integrity Assessment

The Roscoe Goose House retains its historic form and the location of the building has remained the same. There have been few exterior alterations to the house since it was constructed. Though there has been some deterioration of the bracketed façade cornice, the property has been well maintained and is in good condition. The Roscoe Goose House retains the character-defining features that support the historic significance of the property.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for designation is located at 3012 South Third Street. The property contains .26 acres of land as well as the residence. It is described by the Jefferson County Property Evaluation Administrator (PVA) under parcel number 050J-0077-0000. The proposed boundaries for the Roscoe Goose House Individual Local Landmark designation area are the parcel lines on the LOJIC aerial photograph that follows:



LOJIC Aerial Photograph

Sources of Information

Ruby, Earl. *The Golden Goose: Story of the Jockey Who Won the Most Stunning Kentucky Derby and then Became a Millionaire*. 1974. Verona, Wisconsin, Edco-Vis Associates.

White, Charlie. "Groups Discuss Having Goose House Designated as Landmark." *Courier-Journal*. Feb. 14, 2012.

Roscoe Goose, Wikipedia.

Designation Criteria

In considering the designation of any Neighborhood, Area, Property or Structure in Louisville Metro and Jefferson County as a Local Landmark, or District, the Commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such Structure, Property or District:

Local Landmark Designation Criteria	Comments	Meets	Does Not Meet
(a) Its character, interest, or value as part of the development or heritage of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the United States.	Kentucky is the center of Thoroughbred breeding and racing in the United States and Louisville's Churchill Downs is arguably the most renowned racetrack in the world. Roscoe Goose, one of the legendary figures in North American Thoroughbred racing history, achieved initial fame at the Downs and resided most of his life at 3012 South Third Street.	X	
(b) Its exemplification of the historic, aesthetic, architectural, archaeological, prehistoric or historic archaeological, educational, economic, or cultural heritage of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.			X
(c) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.			X
(d) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.	Roscoe Goose was a Thoroughbred jockey, trainer, and owner and one of the inaugural inductees (1963) in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. Goose's 1913 Derby victory aboard 91-1 longshot Donerail remains the highest-priced upset in Derby history.	X	

(e) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.			X
(f) Its identification as the work of an architect, landscape architect, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, the Commonwealth, or the nation.			X
(g) Its embodiment of elements or architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, which represents a significant architectural innovation.			X
(h) Its relationship to other distinctive areas, which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on an historic, cultural, or architectural motif.	By the early 1890s, Louisville's residential development had begun to spread southward beyond the Louisville Jockey Club grounds south of the House of Refuge. The completion of the Grand Boulevard, later Southern Parkway, to Iroquois Park in 1893 would greatly accelerate this development. The residential and commercial development that enveloped the Goose House was a direct result of Churchill Downs's prosperity and transportation improvements and like the transitional Italianate/Victorian Goose House shares a unique spot in Louisville history.	X	

(i) Its unique location or physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature or which reinforce the physical continuity of a neighborhood, area, or place within Louisville Metro.			X
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Photographs



Roscoe Goose House, façade



Roscoe Goose House, south elevation



Roscoe Goose House, south elevation and rear addition



Roscoe Goose House, north elevation

